





Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, May 2 nd, 2019

The next meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be on Thursday, May 2nd 2019, in the Conference Room at the St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Subjects for the meeting include the Pittsburgh Marathon, Hamvention, Breezeshooters, Field Day 2019, , and upcoming plans for 2019.

See you there!

Cover Photos: The WASH Club Table at the 2019 Two Rivers ARC Hamfest Cover Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2019 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President Tony Romano KB3BYA Dan Campbell K3CMU VP / Secretary VP / Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee Larry Comden K3VX WA3SH Trustee Rich Danko N3SBF NP2SH Trustee Paul Jordan NP2JF N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager Ron Notarius W3WN Carl Schroeder K9CS NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager VE Team Liaison Ron Notarius W3WN Webmaster Curtis Turner KB3CMT Harold Rosenberger K3HCR Quartermaster

WASH FM Net Manager Chuck Bihun KC3ELA WASHFest 2020 Committee Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair

Activities & Operating Events Rick Bell KB3IAC Ways & Means Carol Danko KB3GMN WASH 2M Contest Chair Chuck Bihun KC3ELA Rick Bell KB3IAC Field Day 2019 Coordinators

Bill Hill W3WH

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon N3SH/R 146.955 MHz (-) PL 131.8 North Side N3SH/R 442.550 MHz (+) PL 131.8 443.650 MHz (+) Canonsburg N3FB / R PI 131 8 Propagation Beacon NP2SH / B St. Johns, VI 28 276 MHz N3SH APRS Digipeater Canonsburg 144.390 MHz

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Monday Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner ™") is the Official Newsletter of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH), a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN

3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546 newsletter at n3sh dot org or w3wn at arrl dot net

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The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **South Hills Amateur Radio Club**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the WIRELESS Association of South Hills, Inc. and it's members to use their repeaters for **VOLUME 21 ISSUE 05** Page 3

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test July 18th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be Thursday, July 18th, 2019, 7:00 PM, at the WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15214. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins welcome!

But if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn at n3sh dot org

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required) Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading) Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of \$15.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

October 17th, 2019 February 23rd, 2020 Future test dates:

Tony's Musings

Well this year is really moving fast!

And I have one word.. Field Day... Field Day...Field Day... or is that 2 words, or six? Well anyway. last year was a great success, we beat our nearest competitor by 600 Q"S in the 4A class in the Atlantic Division; this year will be even better!



It will be at Babcock Grove In South Park again. And this year we hope to have some Boy Scouts.. and a GOTA station... so be at the May meeting and we can discuss our plans.

Thanks Bill W3WH and Larry K3VX for spearheading Field Day!

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b



W3WH has told us that our 1x1 call request for Field Day 2019 has been approved

The club will be using W3C this

We have a special call in mind for the 2019 Field Day GOTA station as well... to be discussed in more detail at the May club meeting

Is it Spring already? Seemed so, as a beautiful April morning greeted the WASH Breakfast Gang this month, at Eat 'N Park, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray . This month's group consisted of WB4GCS, his brother in law Tom & nephew Ryan, N3IDH, N3FB, KB3GMU, KC4WTT, KB3BYA & Amy, and W3WN. Morning topics covered Pitt & Point Park graduation ceremonies at the Paint Can today, "has it been four years already?" (yes, it has), upcoming surgery, new jobs, making/not making Dayton 2019, "making a mutual decision", Parkway traffic, "just became a grandpa for the first time", (not very) fondly remembering 3 Rivers Stadium and the other 'cigarette bowls', placing video cameras to record the demolition, remembering Suzie B's and Bob's Diner, going to Alaska, TripTiks to Vermont, the "not so frozen" tundra growing up in Minnesota, blamed for owning a bug zapper, basketball tournaments and Zebra sightings... and much, much more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, May 25th, returning to the Eat 'N Park, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray (the "new" restaurant that was recently built), officially starting at 8:00 AM. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tablesas we've previously done, please let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

In case you were wondering why we have a story on Page 6 this month from K8OVP in the depths of Ohio... there's a reason. As alluded to above, Little Miss Field Day just graduated from Point Park University with a Bachelor's in Fine Arts in Scenic Design. (Anyone hiring?) Her roommate for the last 3 years is from Columbus, and HER grandfather, who we finally met post-ceremony, is K8OVP. (And see what happens when you DON'T submit an article?) By the way, both YL's have expressed interest in getting their tickets, though of course, they concentrated on completing their course work first!

..and we've warned you all many times before what would happen if you don't submit any articles or pictures, but at least the puppy didn't graduate from school this month...

Got Baofeng? Glen KE7FD has offered to bring his programming cable and laptop to this month's meeting, to aid anyone who needs assistance in programming their rig. If you have any questions on the specifics, please email Glen prior to the meeting.

Going to Hamvention? Some family circumstances may be forcing Ye Editor to miss Hamvention for the first time in many years. So we would appreciate a short article or two, and definitely pictures from the event - the crowd, the exhibits, the flea market... let's hope they have the mud situation under control this year...

The Breezeshooter's Hamfest will be coming up next month. Plans are to have our traditional club picnic there on Sunday. More information in the June newsletter.

Larry K3VX reminds us that if you're looking for a cabin to operate from that has very little RFI, the US Forest Service has cabins and Fire Towers for rent! They may be a little on the remote side, though. See this link for rules and availability https:// www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r1/recreation/?cid=fsp5 030855

Changes are coming to the WACOM Hamfest in November. See the short article on Page 10.



What's on their caps? Don't ask.

"In the Spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love" (Alfred Lord Tennyson). But as far as us old fogeys go, antennas seem to be of greater interest to us this time of year. Let's be careful out there, on those rooftops, and around wires — Glen Roberts

Got any plans for the 2019 Pennsylvania QSO Party?

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 13

Minutes, April 4th Meeting Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:24 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA) Others)

Number of Members Present: 17; Numbers of Guests: 1;

Introductions: Guest(s) Name(s): Jeff Hutzelman (N3NHS) Pittsburgh Marathon Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla (N3RDV): Current month balances announced. Motion to Accept: Rich N3SBF, Second by Ron W3WN. Passed: Yes.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU)

Are there any corrections to the Minutes: NO

Motion to Accept By: Carol KB3GMN; Seconded by : Glen KE7FD;

Passed: Yes

Correspondence: None

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB), Issues?: No

WASHNet: Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): 'running well"

Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX): Field Day 2019 covered under Old Business.

Public Service: Mike (WA3PYA): Upcoming "Race for the Cure" in May

Newsletter: Ron Notarius W3WN:

unable to print copies of the newsletter for the foreseeable future

requested more photos especially at public service events

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN):

The usual April session was not scheduled; should be back on a regular

schedule in July

Ways & Means: Carol Danko (KB3GMN):

Membership Contributions: (KB3GMN):

Hamfest food revenues announced

ARRL Insurance Premium Due:

Pizza expense reimbursement due

President's Report: None

Old Business:

Larry (K3VX): Field Day 2019: Antenna configuration not optimal due to location of trees, proposed several alternatives: poles, ladders. Jim and Dan offered the use of their ladders.

Club Won Atlantic Division w/ 1,500 contacts

Tony (KB3BYA) & Bill (W3WH): Demonstration for Boy Scouts in May

Glen (KE7FD): wants to do another test on generators using same loads as previously

New Business:

Jeff Hutzelman (N3NHS) (spoke before the meeting was called to order): Pittsburgh Marathon Communications, Sunday May 5th, 2019; need 100 Ham Operators; packet will be sent to volunteers, currently have ½ to 2/3 of needed volunteer cadre

Bob (NU3Q): (new station manager): needs fixed position volunteers and shadows for "Race for the Cure"; contact at 412-736-7385

Bill (W3WH): Paucity of CW activity suggests we trend toward digital

Curtis (KB3CMT): Receiving communications from May 13th or 20th

Tony (KB3BYA): suggested we invite Boy Scouts to Field Day and give them hands on experience.

Glen (KE7FD): suggested software test between FJP and FT8

Bob (NU3Q): renewed VE Certificate

Harold (K3CHR), Curtis (KB3CMT) & Richey (N3SBF) visited Steel City Hamfest; have complex site; use Remotehams.com

US Forest Service sites available for rent; closest is in WV (pretty far)

Good of the Order:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: By: Jim (N3FB) Seconded by: Mark (N3RDV)

Meeting Adjourned: 20:20 hours

WASH Spotlight: AC4KU

This is a photo of mv Dad's burial flag and shadow box. At left is his prayer cards a photo of my parents the night they were engaged. At the center is his Pearl Harbor Survivors badge. The shell casings are from the honor guard.

My High Performance Software Defined Radio display, below Dad's flag.

Dad was AC4KU; my son Chris now holds



that callsign."

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Jim Sanford WB4GCS

Every month we're going to feature a WASH club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the WASH Spotlight. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at newsletter at n3sh dot org

Monthly WASH Breakfast



AA3GM

Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at Eat'nPark, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ???? Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, WASH members or not, amateurs or

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AB3NM KB3JHR K3CMU KB3ORO K3GW **KB3YCX** K3HCR KC3ELA K6DWR KC3GMM KC3MLC KA3VXM KB3BYA KC4WTT **KB3CMT** KE7FD KB3DCO N3DFK KB3GMN N3FB **KB3GMU** N3KFD KB3IAC N3RDG

KB3IVX

N3RDV N3SBF N3ZK NU3Q W3LE W3WH W3WN WA3PYU WA3VSS WB4GCS

KA3UPY/M W4ZE WASH NE **NØPEU** WASH OR KB3NVL **KB3NVM** WASH OH N8DPW

WASH FL

WASH TN K3OL KE3XB N3YPB WASH TX NB3C K3LGM KB3IJX Jane Wagner

WASH VI NP2JF

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through April 29th, 2019 List complied by Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

Kevs AB3KA K3EED K3LIE KA3NMG KB3ENX KB3FNM KB3FQT KB3JHQ N3CZZ N3FZ N3HKQ N3KEH N3OBD N3RNX N3SKR N3SRC N37FI N3XFE W3ZLK

WA3JPP

Silent

2019 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

Oldb IV	ieetiiigs & Other Significant Events	— Jubject to onange		
May 2 nd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park		
May 5 th	The Pittsburgh Marathon	https://thepittsburghmarathon.com		
May 11 th	68 th Annual Armed Forces Day	http://www.usarmymars.org/events/ armed-forces-day		
May 12 th	Race for the Cure	Flagstaff Hill, Schenley Park		
May 17 th — 19 th	DARA Hamvention	Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, <u>Xenia</u> , <u>OH</u>		
May 25 th — 26 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	http://www.cqwpx.com		
June 1 st — 2 nd	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org		
June 6 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park		
June 8 th — 10 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org		
June 15 th	ARRL Kid's Day	http://www.arrl.org		
June 22 nd — 23 rd	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org		
July 4 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park		
July 18 th	<i>WASH</i> VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145 Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh PA		
July 20 th — 21 st	PVGP Schenley Park	https://www.pvgp.org		
August 1 st	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park		
September 5 th	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park		
September 8 th	Butler Co ARA Swapfest	Unionville Fire Hall, Butler PA		
October 3 rd	WASH Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park		
October 12 th –13 th	63 rd Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.paqso.org		
October 17 th	WASH VE Exams	WPXI Community Room, 4145		

"Seen" at the April Meeting Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Jim Sanford WB4GCS



Memories of 9DHB/W8YJD

Frank Huffman K8OVP

Columbus, OH, April 29th, 2019 – My Dad, Ed Huffman, started out with the call sign 9DHB before they had a country prefix of W. He worked his way through college as a broadcast transmitter operator at WBAA (Purdue University), and throwing sparks on Great Lakes ships. Some of his transmitters had been spark transmitters, upgraded by adding tubes and keeping the output circuits, antennas etc. After several months of maritime service as a Sparks he qualified to take the test for First Radiotelegraph required to be a Chief Radio Officer. After moving to Akron OH he became W8YJD, now SK.

This is his photo, probably with the 9YB (now W9YB) club at Purdue in the early 1930's. The power may have come from the car but with the antennas then it certainly was portable. The Operator is in the back seat, and not able to be operated while in motion

Driving through Akron to a job interview, the Motorola brand car radio blew. He saw a radio store and asked for a few parts to fix the radio.



He was asked if he could transmit and showed them his 1st Radiotelegraph license. He was sidetracked to Firestone that was tired of taking 5 weeks for a round trip message to Liberia where they purchased all of their raw material and hired to found the US - Liberia Radio Corporation, a common carrier like Western Libion that used CW

Stray - Another early radio club 9ZN started selling parts hams needed to build spark transmitters. They became so popular they started a company to make all sorts of radio equipment with a name that sounds like the call sign pronounced. What is the company? (The "gang from Z N" became Zenith Radio).

I have to work on my nametag. I just got a pin for 60 years as an ARRL member. And I can't get any of the family member, except my Cousin N8SEY, interested. (Editor's Note: Your Granddaughter was interested!)

Rick NV5A (Rick@TheSignman.com or WWW.TheSignman.com) made the nametag. They are available with either a magnet or pin, the pin is a little weak and can be bumped off. Bend the pin end up so it will be harder to unpin.

I will glue it to my pocket protector when I finish my new one.

Silent Keys



Thelma Desmond DeRose, 90, Washington, mother of Kevin DeRose N3KFD, April 21st



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What A Privilege... вії нії wзwн

Chartiers Township, PA, April 23rd, 2019 -- What a privilege it is to belong to the fraternity of Ham Radio.

I used the term "fraternity" not to exclude the female gender but because I can't think of another that adequately captures the brotherhood of our beloved hobby. As has been said innumerable times, there is something in Ham Radio for everyone. Rag chewing, chasing DX, experimenting, building equipment, playing with antennas, CW, SSB AM Digital modes, new equipment, boat anchors, etc. Well you get my drift, our Hobby is almost unbelievably varied.

However the most precious aspects of the privilege I believe are the extraordinary caliber of the people you meet along the way in your Ham journey. Not only are so many very smart but virtually all of those we encounter are willing to share their talents with everyone.

The other day this occurred to me when Glen KE7FD who lives in Clairton was willing to drive to my QTH and program my dual band HT which I stupidly erased all the memories. OUCH! What a wonderful favor he did for me. It's even better because he brought along his dog "Cujo" I can't possibly think of all the people who are, mostly in our Club, who continually help me solve a problem of one sort or another. I know for a fact that until it hit me the other day, that I didn't appreciate the number and significance of all the acts of kindness that I have been privileged to receive.



I won't try to name any more individuals but you all know who you are and to everyone I say THANK YOU!!! and I hope I can return some of the favors some day soon

To be a Ham is such a wonderful gift and privilege and I hope we can all realize and appreciate our good fortune.

The Latest Adventures of Carl & Quinn

For his own protection, the author has been placed in the Federal Witless Protection Program

(Editorial note: Consider the history of scientific learning, knowledge and achievements. Few discoveries may never eclipse the awe of that which has been revealed recently, that of the first ever image of a black hole. Einstein's theory of general relativity has been observed and verified in the cosmos on a grand scale. Using the "Event Horizon Telescope" which are a series of radio telescopes positioned around the world, one of which is located outside of Westford, MA, observed activity at the center of the galaxy M87, then compiled mountains of data into what scientists later announced is nearly a straight-on view of the massive galaxy, some 53 million light-years from Earth. This image of a black hole may be the single most important development in the scientific community since the atomic age began.



(A review of this information was necessary before relating the following story...)

t had been a long cold winter this year, and like bears emerging from their dens after the sleep has worn off, Carl and Quinn were eager to get busy on something new.

"Hey Carl, have you got that transmitter going yet?", barked Quinn on their 440 simplex QSO.

"Almost. Don't get your Depends in a wad. The crystal controlled frequency multiplying oscillator you got off of eBay keeps shifting somewhere out of band. These SMD caps you bought aren't exactly top of the line either."

Their project under construction was an ATV transmitter capable of steaming a looped image stored on a small memory card. The boys had choosen to transmit a picture of their callsigns being painted onto a donut. The transmitter would then be set aloft with a GPS tracker, the payload aboard a helium weather balloon

The theory was once the balloon reached apogee, it would burst, the payload would then parachute back to the ground where it would be recovered.

After Carl fixed some solder pads which kept lifting off the board, the transmitter was finally finished. They, having learned many lessons from a previous failed balloon launch years earlier, our boys gathered everything up and set out for the launch site at Mingo Creek Park. The observatory at the top of the hill was unoccupied today, being daylight so they had the hilltop to themselves. After some setup time to switch on the transmitter, check its signal, attach it to the recovery system, and inflate the weather balloon, they were ready.

Quinn was holding onto the package, while Carl played out some of the tether to the balloon.

"Quinn, are you ready? I'm about to release the balloon!" Carl shouted.

"Let it go!" replied Quinn.

Off it went, shooting up even faster than they expected it to. It gracefully leaned with the breeze as it rose. They could hear the hum of the receiver collecting the data from the ATV image, completing, pausing then repeating. Everything was going perfectly. Had they finally broken the curse of so many failed projects of the past, Carl wondered to himself. As he wheeled about to monitor the telemetry from the now impossible to see balloon, he caught a glimpse of something in Quinn's right hand.

"Quinn! What's that in your hand? Carl barked startling Quinn.

"Ahh, oh geez. It's the styrofoam panel from the bottom of the package! It must not have been fastened tight. What are we going to do?", Quinn replied in horror.

The styrofoam panel Quinn held in his hand served three purposes. It would help maintain a warmer temperature inside the styrofoam package, there was a small counterweight included to keep the package upright at all times and the GPS module was attached there. Without the insulation, the temperature inside the package could plummet to minus 130° F, not to mention that the balloon might reach altitudes of stratospheric jet streams which might carry it in totally different directions.

They watched the telemetry come in, which now only consisted of their callsigns being superimposed on a donut. No location, no altitude, no temperature and no way to track the package. It was as the movie title read, "Gone With The Wind". They looked at each other as the telemetry faded away, with Carl making a very optimistic comment: "It'll probably fall into the ocean".

Quinn paused then said, "You hungry? I'm hungry. Let's go get something to eat." And with that, the boys packed up and headed off to Eat'n Park.

As it turned out, the package did not land in the ocean as they had hoped. It instead took a different course than what they intended. With the insulating panel missing, the sub-zero temperatures caused solder pads to lift off of the board shifting the transmission frequency of the image being sent.

When the balloon burst in the stratosphere, the package came down gently underneath its parachute and landed in the tops of the trees not too far from the receiving dish at a certain observatory outside of Westford, MA,. The logo continued to transmit albeit outside of the Amateur bands. The signal was received nevertheless. It was mistakenly incorporated as part of the now famous, somewhat circular imagine of the M87 black hole, and a sprinkled donut.

"Seen" At the 2019 Two Rivers ARC Hamfest

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



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Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Set for May 11th American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 29th, 2019 –The Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) will host the traditional military/Amateur Radio communication tests to mark the 68th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD) on Saturday, May 11. The event is open to all radio amateurs. Armed Forces Day is May 18, but the AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event traditionally takes place 1 week earlier in order to avoid conflicting with Hamvention®. Complete information, including military stations, modes, and frequencies, is available on the US Army MARS website.

"For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event, which is only an exercise scenario, designed to include hobbyist and government radio operators alike," the event announcement said. "The AFD Crossband Test is a unique opportunity to test two-way communications between military communicators and radio stations in the Amateur Radio Service, as authorized in 47 CFR 97.111. These tests provide opportunities and challenges for radio operators to demonstrate individual technical skills in a tightly-controlled exercise scenario that does not impact any public or private communications."

During the event, military stations in various locations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ham frequencies they are monitoring.

Military stations expected to be on the air for the event include those in Arizona, Japan, Hawaii, Okinawa, Washington, DC (and elsewhere in the contiguous states), the USS *Midway*, the USS *Yorktown*, the USS *Iowa*, LST-325, the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, and the Newport Naval Radio Station Museum in Rhode Island. The MARSCOMM and MARSRADIO nationwide networks will have multiple stations on the air across the continental US.

ARMED FORCES DAY

Courageous
Steadfast

Protectors:

An AFD message will be transmitted utilizing the Military Standard (MIL-STD) serial PSK waveform (M110) followed by MIL-STD Wide Shift FSK (850 Hz RTTY), as described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. <u>Technical information</u> is available. The AFD message will also be sent in CW and RTTY, as indicated on the <u>full-steel</u>. Anyone wanting a QSL should complete the <u>request form</u> on the MARS website

New Contest-Friendly FT4 Digital Protocol to Debut

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 22nd, 2019 – A new, speedier, more contest-friendly digital mode is just days away, initially in beta form. <u>WSJT-X</u> developers say serious work on the new FT4 protocol began shortly after the FT8 Roundup held last December 1st – 2nd. The goal was a mode that could compete with RTTY contesting in terms of contact rates, while preserving many of the benefits of FT8.

"Over the past month a small group of volunteers have been conducting on-the-air tests of FT4," the WSJT-X Development Group — Joe Taylor K1JT, Steve Franke K9AN, and Bill Somerville G4WJ — announced this week. "The early tests were very successful and helped us to make a number of important design decisions. We believe FT4 has considerable promise for its intended number."

The developers say FT-4 soon will be ready for testing by a larger group and they're seeking interested participants who can offer their "considered feedback." They suggest reading <u>The FT4 Protocol for Digital Contesting</u> first. A general release of the *WSJT-X* suite that includes FT4 is anticipated in July.

According to the document FT4 is an experimental digital mode designed specifically for radio contesting that — like FT8 — uses fixed-length transmissions, structured messages with formats optimized for minimal contacts, and strong forward-error correction. Transmit-receive sequences are 6 seconds, making it 2.5 times faster than FT8 and about the same speed as conventional RTTY for radio contesting. FT4 can work with signals 10 dB weaker what would be required to decode RTTY while using much less bandwidth.

Transmissions last for 4.48 seconds, compared to 12.64 seconds for FT8. Modulation uses four-tone frequency-shift keying at approximately 23.4 baud, with tones separated by the baud rate. The occupied bandwidth is 90 Hz.

"We plan to post downloadable installation packages for WSJT-X version 2.1.0-rc5 on Monday, April 29th," the Development Group said. *The FT4 Protocol for Digital Contesting* document includes:

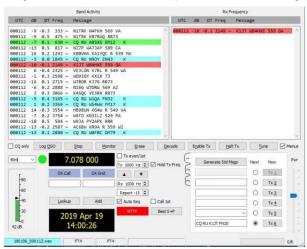
- Instructions for installing WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc5 and configuring FT4.
- FT4 operating instructions.
- A basic description of the FT4 protocol, modulation, and waveform.
- Detailed sensitivity measurements for FT4 under a wide variety of simulated propagation conditions.

"A few parameters and operating behaviors of FT4 are still being tested and optimized," the initial FT4 guide says. "It will be very useful to hold several more mock contest practice sessions, with a larger group of active participants."

Even if these practice sessions reveal no serious bugs or inadequacies, the WSJT-X Development Group believes FT4 is still too new to be used in the ARRL VHF Contest (June 8th – 10th) and ARRL Field Day (June 22nd – 23rd). For that reason, release candidate WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc5 will "time out" on June 7th.

Here is the proposed schedule related to the FT4 beta version rollout.

- April 29th: Second announcement, with links to downloadable installation packages for WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc5
- May 9th, 0000 0100 UTC: FT4 practice session, 7.090 MHz
- May 14th, 0000 0100 UTC: FT4 practice session, 7.090 MHz
- June 5th, 0000 0100 UTC: FT4 practice session, 7.090 MHz (if needed)
- July 15th: General Availability (GA) release of WSJT-X 2.1.0.



South Orkney 2020

Perseverance DX Group

Press Release #2, April 28th, 2019 – We appreciate the **Northern California DX Foundation's** (NCDXF) significant grant of **\$30,000(USD)** to our project. Their generous grant will help cover the estimated project cost of \$325,000(USD).

DXpeditions to Antarctica require severe weather tents. We recently purchased suitable tents from other DXpedition teams and will consolidate them and other equipment in California.

Our fundraising drive began in mid-March. In just a short time we've received donations from 19 clubs/ foundations and over 130 individuals. We look forward to receiving support from the global DX community. Donations may be made via the website or by contacting us at: info@sorkney.com

Press Release #1, March 13th, 2019 -

The Perseverance DX Group (pdxg.net) is pleased to announce their intention to activate South Orkney Islands (AN-008), currently Clublog #16 most wanted.



Signy Island

Planning has begun for an expedition in Feb/Mar, 2020. A team of experienced DX and Contest operators will operate from Signy Island for up to 15 days. The process of obtaining landing permission is underway. The call sign will be announced at a later date. The team will sail from Punta Arenas, Chile aboard **RV Braveheart**. Seven operating positions are planned for 160-10 meters, SSB/CW/Digital.

More information at https://sorkney.com/

Please direct your questions to: info@sorkney.com

WACOM Hamfest Changes

Tom Wright KC3TOM

Bud (N3TIR) and Norma (N3YJJ) have decided to take a break after many successful years of HamFest organizing. We thank them for their years of service. I have stepped up to help with organizing this years event.

We hope you will join us for another successful year.

Unfortunately, we were unable to reach an agreement with the Printscape Arena, the site of the 2018 HamFest. So, we are back at our original location for the foreseeable future: Washington County Fair Grounds: 2151 North Main Street, Washington,

Tuture: Wasnington County Fair Grounds: 2151 North Main Street, Wasnington PA 15301

Prices will once again remain unchanged - 1-4 tables \$12 each and 5 or more tables \$10 each. Cost of tables doesn't include admission, which remains at \$5.00

— 73, Tom Wright KC3TOM (412) 414-5627

Hamvention® has announced that it will open the gates to all, without charge, on the final day of the annual gathering at Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Hamvention 2019 General Chair Jack Gerbs WB8SCT said the idea is to encourage the curious to see what attracts some 30,000 visitors to Hamvention each spring.

"We have decided to open the doors to Hamvention to the public on Sunday, May 19th, without buying a ticket," Gerbs said. "This will make it a little easier and cheaper for someone with just a little interest in Hamvention to see what all the excitement is about."

In addition to the features and equipment that attract radio amateurs, non-ham visitors will get to see vendors selling a variety of other electronic equipment, including computers and accessories, security devices, networking supplies, tools and other items of interest to the general public. Those visiting the flea market area may be surprised at what's available, often at a small fraction of its original cost.

Gerbs pointed out that Sunday is Hamvention's lightest traffic day, making it convenient for anyone who just wants check out what's there. Many vendors offer last-minute specials on a variety of items. The many food trucks offer a wide selection of menus, providing attendees with an opening to make Hamvention 2019 a family outing.

Hamvention will be open on Sunday from 9 AM until 1 PM. On Friday and Saturday, the gates will be open from 9 AM until 5 PM.

DX News Briefs

ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau Rates have been rolled back to 2011 levels effective 15 May. 10 or fewer cards in one envelope will be \$2, 11 – 20 cards \$3, and \$.75 per ounce for packages with 21 or more cards. There will be no transaction fees. Packages received prior to 15 May will be charged at the current rates. More information at http://www.arrl.org/Outgoing-QSL-Service

3YØI: "The entire 3Y0I Bouvet Team is home and all are resting after the Rebel attempt at Bouvet. 70 miles! 70 miles, 10 hours is all we needed and we possibly could have sheltered on the west side of Bouvet from the storm that wreaked havoc! Our license is renewed, our equipment stored in Cape Town (thank you fellow Rebels), and we're already making plans for Bouvet in the Fall! In the meantime, where will the Rebels show up next?"

MMØNDX and MMØOKG have cancelled the J2ØDX trip due to issues with their equipment not being released by Customs, as their National Security documentation was unsigned even though their call had been issued. More information at https://j20dx.com

Multiple stations are QRV from Israel during the 64th Eurovision Song Contest through 18 May, including **4X64G**, **4X64N**, **4X64O**, **4X64S**, and **4X64EURO**. More information at https://www.iarc.org/livelog.

8J1ITU will be QRV during all of May to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the ITU. QSL via the JARL

EP3CQ is QRV as **60100** through 15 May, in his spare tie. QSL via his Berlin address

LX8SAR will be QRV during the SAARLORLUX Friendship Meeting 2019 10 – 12 May. QSL via the RL Bureau

HA7HTR will be QRV as **S79HA** from AF-024 22 – 29 May, holiday style 160 – 17 with focus on the low bands. QSL via HA7JTR

GØVJG, will be QRV as **3D2AS** from Fiji 3-8 May and 20-22 May. He will also be QRV as FW/GØVJG from Wallis Island (OC-054) 8-22 May. Dates could change. Activity from the islands will be on 60/40/30/20/17/15/12/10/6 SSB and FT8. QSL via MØOXO

JA1XGI will be QRV as **V6K** from OC-059 Kosrae Island 17 -24 June. More information at http://v6k.client.jp QSL via JA1XGI

FO/W6NV will be QRV from 18 -31 July. QSL via W6NV

Members of the Russian Robinson Club are planning to be QRV as **KL7RRC/p** from Sledge Island NA-210 25 August – 3 September, pending permissions from the USFWS and USCG. QSL via N7RO

DDØVR & DE3BWR will be QRV as 3D2VR 2 – 9 September & 23 – 27 September, 5WØVR 9 – 16 September, and A35JY 16 – 21 September

A82X will be QRV 28 September – 11 October. **A82Z** will be used on digital modes. More information at $\frac{\text{http://www.i2ysb.com/idt}}{\text{http://www.i2ysb.com/idt}}$

6W1RY will be QRV during the CQWW DX Contest 26 – 27 October. US Stations QSL via WA6WPG

QSL Routes

4E8T via MØOXO 5PØWARD via OZ1ACB 9M6ZAE via W3HNK A6ØWARD via A61BK A93DX via A92AA AM67ØURP via EA6URP AN77ØKA via EB7KA DAØIMD via DL1BFE DAØWF via DL2ND DFØFML via DL2SK DLØMFH via DM1BM DLØSHZ via DL1ASR DQ6ØØUNI via DL5KVV EA6/EI6DX via RA3R

EG1PEA via EA1RKA EG1CP via EA1RCI EH5TYF via EA5RKB EH7SCB via EA7URM EIØCAR via EI4JR EM4IFF via US5IQ FG8OJ via F4AVX GBØBOC via GMØOTI GBØMGY via G6UT GB5SM via LZ1JZ GB5ØWAB via G7GJU GS8VL via MØOXO HB9O via HB9BRG HF1ØØL via SP8ZHY HG1ØWCA via HA4FY HR5/F2JD via F6AJA IIØBIKE via 9A5URI

II20M via IK2AQZ IO5CNPP via IZ5RHU J42L via SV2DCD OF19M via OF1WHC OZ2SPACE via OZ1ACB PW2F via PY2NA SN1IW via SP2PBY SN75W via SP7IWA ST1CA via I2YSB TM19PAQ via F4HZS TM35REF via F4KIR TM4G via ON4ZD XP3A via PA3249 XR2Ø1G via CE5PRD XT2MAX via DK1MAX Z66Z via OZ1ACB ZW8T via PS8HF

Thanks to the NJDXA *DX News* Reflector, the *DX-QSL* Reflector, *425 DX News*, *OPDX News*, *DX Coffee*, *DX World.Net*, *ICPO Bulletin*, & *ARRL DX Bulletin* for our *DX News* information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR /*The Daily DX* for confirmations & additional information.

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WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the *WASH*Rag. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the *WASH*Rag or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law

277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at https://www/jeffk1nss.com !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



For Sale: MFJ 949D Deluxe VersaTuner II

Kenwood TS-520 Kenwood Remote VFO 520S

Kenwood MC-50 Kenwood SP-430

Kenwood Digital Display DE-5

Kenwood TS – 520, SSB Transceiver (Qty. 2)

Contact Bill Petrie - (412) 384-4105

For Sale: CDE Rotor (Rotator), Rebuilt in 2018

Contact: Mauro Orsatti, 2120 S Rankintown Rd, Finleyville, PA 15332;

(724) 348-5531

For Sale: From the estate of Skip Renswick K2SR:

Yaesu FTDX5000MP Yaesu FT-991A

Yaesu FT-736R Yaesu FL-7000 HF Linear Amplifier

 Kenwood TS-2000
 Kenwood TS-590

 Kenwood TS-590
 Kenwood TS-480SAT

 ICOM IC-2410A
 Tokyo Hy-Power HL-1.5 KFX

Ameritron AL-80A
Ameritron AL-811

Drake 2B

Heathkit SB-220 Heathkit SB-614
Astron RS-50M Astron RS-35M
Astron RS-35A Astron LS-10A
Palstar HF Stepper antenna tuner AT-Auto
Palstar HF Stepper tuning network HF-Auto

MFJ 986 differential T Tuner

Tektronix 1503B

Energy Concepts 20600C high current power supply

Prices negotiable.

Contact Leah Renswick K2LAR lrenswick@gmail.com

Home (716) 386-4722 Cell (716) 450-4722

K2LAR will attend the Breezeshooters Hamfest and deliver pieces of equipment but will not be bringing other pieces to sell

If you've downloaded the *WASH*Rag from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email You <u>do NOT</u> have to be a member of **WASH**!

Just send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and the automation should take care of the rest!



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, April 16th, 2019 – ARRL and the FCC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that paves the way to implement the new and enhanced Volunteer Monitor program. The memorandum establishes the Volunteer Monitors as a replacement for the Official Observers (OO) program. Current OOs have been encouraged to participate in the new program.

"We are excited by the opportunity to codify our partnership with the FCC and to work together to achieve our mutual interests of protecting the integrity of our Amateur Radio bands," said ARRL President Rick Roderick K5UR. "This Memorandum of Understanding will serve as the foundation for a new level of partnership on this very important issue."

ARRL has contracted with retired FCC special counsel and former Atlantic Division Vice Director Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, to oversee the ARRL's role in the development and implementation of the Volunteer Monitor program.

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors at its July 2018 meeting, the new Volunteer Monitor program is a formal agreement between the FCC and ARRL in which volunteers trained and vetted by the ARRL will monitor the airwaves and collect evidence that can be used both to correct misconduct or recognize exemplary on-air operation. Cases of flagrant violations will be referred to the FCC by the ARRL for action in accordance with FCC guidelines.

The intent of this program is to re-energize enforcement efforts in the Amateur Radio bands. It was proposed by the FCC in the wake of several FCC regional office closures and a reduction in field staff.

"Under this program, the FCC will give enforcement priority to cases developed by the Volunteer Monitor program, without the delay of ARRL having to refer cases through the FCC online complaint process," Hollingsworth said.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program: Development, Solicitation and Training, and Implementation.

- The Development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining the ARRL's and FCC's requirements and needs as part of the program, writing a job description for volunteer monitors, and developing a training manual for volunteers.#
- The Solicitation and Training phase will involve identifying the geographic locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications and guidance from Section Managers in reviewing applicants. (Those currently volunteering as Official Observers are invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors.).#

The Implementation phase will involve having the volunteers provide field reports to ARRL, with staff offering guidance to volunteers to ensure that the information collected meets requirements for FCC enforcement action.#

Hollingsworth has committed to FCC and ARRL officials to ensure the adequacy of training for the new positions, to review the quality and utility of Volunteer Monitor submissions to the FCC for enforcement actions, and to advocate for rapid disposition of cases appropriately submitted to the FCC.

ARRL officials estimate that within 6 to 9 months the first Volunteer Monitors will be in place and ready to begin their duties.

US Amateurs by Class as of April 29th, 2019: Novice Technician 414.871 General 188.562 Advanced 43,530 Extra 153.752 Club 12.704 **Total** 822,991 All-Time High 02/11/2019 825,088 Last 90 Days: **New Amateurs** 10,970 Callsign Changes 3,218 Class Changes 4,705 No Longer Licensed 10,290 40,934 All Updates (*) (*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com

2019 Pittsburgh Marathon May 5th

Over 150 Amateur Radio operators are needed for the 2019 Pittsburgh Marathon on May 5th, to help provide support for the Marathon Medical Staff, over 35,000 runners, and many more times spectators. Operators are needed at aid stations, mile markers, shadows for medical officials, and others. More information is available at http://marathon.central.org which includes a link to the volunteer registration system, or contact Jeff Hutzleman N3NHS jhutz@cmu.edu (412)401-8348



2019 Race for the Cure May 12th

Amateur Radio Operators are needed to help provide communications for the 27th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on Mother's Day, May 12th, 2019.

Operators are needed for fixed points along the course, and to shadow the race officials.

The race begins at 6:30 AM, and will take place at Flagstaff Hill in Schenley Park.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bob Mente NU3Q at (412) 279-9016, or NU3Q@Verizon.net



Butler County ARA Swapfest 2019

Sunday, September 8th, 2018, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

Grounds Open at 6 AM for Vendors & Tailgaters
Unionville Volunteer Fire Department
102 Mahood Road (at Route 8 North), Butler, PA 16001

Talk-in on 147.360 PL 131.8 Admission \$5

More Information at http://www.w3udx.org



65th Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & ARRL WPA Section Convention

Saturday, June 1st, 2019 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM & Sunday, June 2nd, 2019 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Big Butler Fairgrounds, 1127 New Castle Road (US 422), Prospect PA 16052 \$10 Per Person Admission Donation Good for Both Days

Indoor Tables & Tailgate / Flea Market Spaces Available
Flea Market spaces \$15 per space, Good for Both Days
Fairgrounds open at 5 AM Saturday & Sunday for Vendor & Tailgate Setup

14 Main Prizes

Half Hour Prizes (based on Admission Tickets)
Indoor Tables \$25 per table and may be reserved by calling (412) 389-1739
Or mail reservations to PO Box 101018, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Table reservation cut-off date May 20th, 2019

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at http://www.breezeshooters.net or email http://www.breezeshoot



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal

OCIATION ON SOUTH HILLS

	I would like to join WASH: I am interested in the following type of membership.		membership.). I wew membership in membership kenewai			
	(check quarter ————) (check one <u>J</u>)	□ 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	☐ 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	☐ 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	☐ 4th Qtr Oct-Dec		
	□ (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00		
	☐ (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50		
	☐ (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50		
□ (F	(FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$						
N	ame(s):	_					
Name:		_	Call Sign:				
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City, State:		_	Expires On:				
Home Phone:			Work Phone:				
Email Address:			Birthday:				
New Members Only:			ARRL Member? \square Yes \square No Family ARRL Member? \square Yes \square No				
☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector ☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List [If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]			Date:				
Signature:			Amount Enclosed: \$				

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.

The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.

Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer 1120 McKnight Drive Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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Arghh!
What
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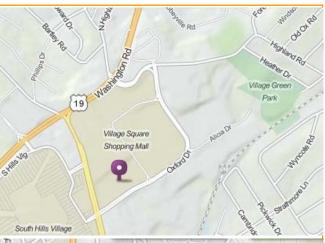




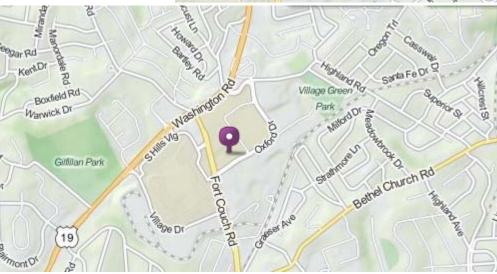
2019 WASH Meeting Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102
Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19







The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor 3395 Rosewood Drive Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546





N3SH / WA3SH NP2SH/B www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org

